

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Land Reform in Lutsan, Eastern Hupeh

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The village of Lutsan¹ is in the Minghsing area of Hsiaokan (113-55, 30-56) Hsien, which is a prosperous agricultural region with no large landowners. Lutsan is an average village, with a population of 4,695. The entire village area is arable, with the land being divided into fat land, which is flat, and lean land, which is sloping.
2. Land reform workers first came to survey the village in the autumn of 1950. At that time there were 38 small landowners, who formed 3.4 percent of the population; 37.6 percent of the population were rich peasants, 33 percent middle peasants and 26 percent poor peasants.
3. It proved impossible to arouse much bitterness in the village against the landowners. Most of the population refused to give information about landlords' property, owing to sympathy for them. Family loyalties are very strong in this area, and this contributed to protect the landlords, who are related at least by marriage to many of their potential enemies.
4. After the redistribution of land, 25 of the 38 landlords left the village without paying the forfeits in grain assigned them by the accusation meetings. Nine of the landlords stayed and paid in whole or in part; the remaining four stayed without suffering any seizure of grain stocks or private property.
5. It is estimated that only half the prescribed amount of grain has been collected from the former landlords. One of them, owing 300 shih² of rice, has paid 100 shih; another, owing 50 shih, has paid 10 shih.
6. Land was allotted in terms of expected yield of rice. The average allocation was an area of fat land sufficient to yield 4 tou² of rice plus an area of lean land yielding 4 tou.
7. Some first-class land (an area capable of yielding 41 shih of rice) was reserved for later allotment. On the whole, the Communists fared best in the redistribution, especially in convenience of location of land and in yield, which varies up to 30 percent between one holding and another of the same grade and size.

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8. LU Hsiu-fa (), chairman of the village Peasants' Union made the following statements at a meeting, "I understand from my comrades that the term of office for a leader is six months. I have already served three months. Someone else should take my place and give me a rest to get back to productive work." This is typical of the local attitude to land reform and its organs.

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Comment. Lutsan seems typical of the areas where land reform was not a resounding success.

1. Comment. Received by this office as Lukang.

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2. Comment. A shih is probably about the same as a picul, being 100 100 standard catties. A tou of rice would probably weigh about 19 pounds.

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